

BBM-142US1

Appln. No.: 10/823,369
Supplemental Amendment Dated May 25, 2006

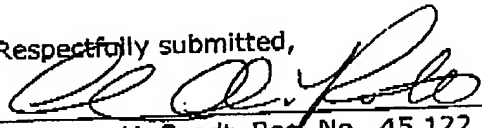
Remarks/Arguments:

Applicant files this Supplemental Amendment which adds new claims 32-37. New claims 32-37 are supported in sections of Applicant's original specification, including but not limited to Figure 2 and page 17, lines 8-29. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

New claims 32-37 are directed to a fixing mechanism for a rod fixation assembly. The claims are directed to many of the same components recited in pending claims 1-31 and would not require additional searching beyond that which will be undertaken for claims 1-31. Applicant respectfully submits that it would be less burdensome on the Patent Office to enter and examine new claims 32-37 in the present application while the prior art search is being undertaken, rather than refuse entry and require Applicant to file a continuing application.

To date, Applicant believes that no office action has been issued in response to Applicant's last amendment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Supplemental Amendment and consideration of new claims 32-37.

Respectfully submitted,


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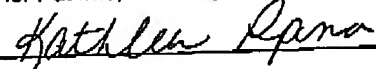
Enclosures: Copy of Parent PTO/SB/81; and
Copy of Parent PTO/SB/96

Dated: May 25, 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal VIA FACSIMILE to 571-273-8300, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, on: May 25, 2006

Kathleen Spina